(b) The approx. cost of constructing of this MG line will be Rs. 25 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to poor traffic prospects.

Scheme for connecting Madras Central with Madras Egmore

*178. DR. D. MASTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for connecting Madras Central and Madras Egmore for the convenience of South Bound Passengers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) and (b) Madras Central and Madras Egmore have already been connected by BG via Madras Beach through a new line which has been commissioned on 2.4.95. The total distance between Madras Egmore and Madras Central via this route is 11 km.

Halt of Intercity Express Trains in Andhra Pradesh

*179. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps proposed to increase halts for Inter-City Express trains plying in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any study has been done of the needs of passengers in this regard; and

(c) in what manner Railways propose to get the maximum benefit for the large number of passengers in Andhra Pradesh by increasing halts in Inter-City Express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) There are no plans to increase the number of stoppages of Intercity trains in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Individual demands are examined.

(c) Stoppages are being given as per traffic needs.

Completion of gauge conversion of projects

*180. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects for conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Guage in the country which have been approved but are lying pending due to non-availability of funds;

((b) by when these projects are likely to be taken up and completed;

(c) whether any World Bank assistance has been sought for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) The following projects which have been approved for conversion are pending due to constraint of funds:

(1) Kashipur-Lalkuan
(2) Bhildi-Luni
(3) Mehsana-Patan with extension to Bhildi.

(b) These projects are temporarily frozen due to constraint of resources and low operational priority. They would be taken up after some of the ongoing projects get completed and the resource position improves. The programme of completion of these projects would be decided once the work on these projects is resumed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

1023. [WITHDRAWN].

Service Programmes of Indian Red Cross Society

1024. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) neither runs nor supports any regular service programme for the welfare of civilian